



General Assembly

January Session, 2017

## ***Amendment***

LCO No. 6846



Offered by:

SEN. SLOSSBERG, 14<sup>th</sup> Dist.  
SEN. BOUCHER, 26<sup>th</sup> Dist.  
REP. FLEISCHMANN, 18<sup>th</sup> Dist.  
REP. LAVIELLE, 143<sup>rd</sup> Dist.

REP. SANCHEZ, 25<sup>th</sup> Dist.  
REP. COOK, 65<sup>th</sup> Dist.  
REP. MILLER P., 145<sup>th</sup> Dist.

To: Subst. Senate Bill No. 912

File No. 528

Cal. No. 276

**"AN ACT CONCERNING REVISIONS TO THE STAFF  
QUALIFICATIONS REQUIREMENT FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD  
EDUCATORS."**

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and substitute the  
2 following in lieu thereof:

3 "Section 1. Subsections (a) and (b) of section 10-16p of the general  
4 statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof  
5 (*Effective July 1, 2017*):

6 (a) As used in sections 10-16o to 10-16r, inclusive, 10-16u, 17b-749a  
7 and 17b-749c:

8 (1) "School readiness program" means a nonsectarian program that  
9 (A) meets the standards set by the Office of Early Childhood pursuant  
10 to subsection (b) of this section and the requirements of section 10-16q,  
11 and (B) provides a developmentally appropriate learning experience of

12 not less than four hundred fifty hours and one hundred eighty days  
13 for eligible children, except as provided in subsection (d) of section 10-  
14 16q;

15 (2) "Eligible children" means children three and four years of age  
16 and children five years of age who are not eligible to enroll in school  
17 pursuant to section 10-15c, or who are eligible to enroll in school and  
18 will attend a school readiness program pursuant to section 10-16t;

19 (3) "Priority school" means a school in which forty per cent or more  
20 of the lunches served are served to students who are eligible for free or  
21 reduced price lunches pursuant to federal law and regulations,  
22 excluding such a school located in a priority school district pursuant to  
23 section 10-266p or in a former priority school district receiving a grant  
24 pursuant to subsection (c) of this section and, on and after July 1, 2001,  
25 excluding such a school in a transitional school district receiving a  
26 grant pursuant to section 10-16u;

27 (4) "Severe need school" means a school in a priority school district  
28 pursuant to section 10-266p or in a former priority school district in  
29 which forty per cent or more of the lunches served are served to  
30 students who are eligible for free or reduced price lunches;

31 (5) "Accredited" means accredited by the National Association for  
32 the Education of Young Children, a Head Start on-site program review  
33 instrument or a successor instrument pursuant to federal regulations,  
34 or otherwise meeting such criteria as may be established by the  
35 commissioner, unless the context otherwise requires;

36 (6) "Year-round" means fifty weeks per year, except as provided in  
37 subsection (d) of section 10-16q;

38 (7) "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Early Childhood;

39 (8) "Office" means the Office of Early Childhood; [and]

40 (9) "Seeking accreditation" means a school readiness program  
41 seeking accreditation by the National Association for the Education of

42 Young Children or a Head Start on-site program review instrument or  
43 successor instrument pursuant to federal regulations, or attempting to  
44 meet criteria as may be established by the commissioner; and

45 (10) "Concentration in early childhood education" means a program  
46 of study in early childhood education, including, but not limited to,  
47 early childhood education, child study, child development or human  
48 growth and development.

49 (b) (1) The office shall be the lead agency for school readiness. For  
50 purposes of this section and section 10-16u, school readiness program  
51 providers eligible for funding from the office shall include local and  
52 regional boards of education, regional educational service centers,  
53 family resource centers and providers of child care centers, as defined  
54 in section 19a-77, Head Start programs, preschool programs and other  
55 programs that meet such standards established by the commissioner.  
56 The office shall establish standards for school readiness programs. The  
57 standards may include, but need not be limited to, guidelines for staff-  
58 child interactions, curriculum content, including preliteracy  
59 development, lesson plans, parent involvement, staff qualifications  
60 and training, transition to school and administration. The office shall  
61 develop age-appropriate developmental skills and goals for children  
62 attending such programs. The commissioner, in consultation with the  
63 president of the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities, the  
64 Commissioners of Education and Social Services and other appropriate  
65 entities, shall develop a professional development program for the  
66 staff of school readiness programs.

67 (2) For purposes of this section:

68 (A) Prior to July 1, [2017] 2018, "staff qualifications" means there is  
69 in each classroom an individual who has at least the following: (i) A  
70 childhood development associate credential or an equivalent  
71 credential issued by an organization approved by the commissioner  
72 and twelve credits or more in early childhood education or child  
73 development, as determined by the commissioner or the president of

74 the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities, after consultation with  
75 the commissioner, from an institution of higher education (I)  
76 accredited by the Board of Regents for Higher Education or Office of  
77 Higher Education, and (II) regionally accredited; (ii) an associate  
78 degree with twelve credits or more in early childhood education or  
79 child development, as determined by the commissioner or the  
80 president of the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities, after  
81 consultation with the commissioner, from such an institution; (iii) a  
82 four-year degree with twelve credits or more in early childhood  
83 education or child development, as determined by the commissioner  
84 or the president of the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities,  
85 after consultation with the commissioner, from such an institution; [or]  
86 (iv) certification pursuant to section 10-145b with an endorsement in  
87 early childhood education or special education; (v) an associate degree  
88 with a concentration in early childhood education from an institution  
89 of higher education that is regionally accredited; or (vi) a bachelor's  
90 degree with a concentration in early childhood education from an  
91 institution of higher education that is regionally accredited;

92 (B) From July 1, [2017] 2018, until June 30, [2020] 2021, "staff  
93 qualifications" means that for each early childhood education program  
94 accepting state funds for infant, toddler and preschool spaces  
95 associated with such program's child care program or school readiness  
96 program, (i) at least fifty per cent of those individuals with the primary  
97 responsibility for a classroom of children (I) hold [(I)] certification  
98 pursuant to section 10-145b with an endorsement in early childhood  
99 education or early childhood special education, [or (II) a bachelor's  
100 degree with a concentration in early childhood education, including,  
101 but not limited to, a bachelor's degree in early childhood education,  
102 child study, child development or human growth and development,  
103 from an institution of higher education accredited by the Board of  
104 Regents for Higher Education or Office of Higher Education, and  
105 regionally accredited, provided such bachelor's degree program is  
106 approved by the Board of Regents for Higher Education or the Office  
107 of Higher Education and the Office of Early Childhood,] (II) have been

108 issued an early childhood teacher credential, pursuant to section 2 of  
109 this act, (III) hold at least a bachelor's degree with a concentration in  
110 early childhood education from an institution of higher education that  
111 is regionally accredited, or (IV) satisfy the requirements of subdivision  
112 (3), (4) or (5) of this subsection, and (ii) such remaining individuals  
113 with the primary responsibility for a classroom of children hold an  
114 associate degree with a concentration in early childhood education [,  
115 including, but not limited to, an associate degree in early childhood  
116 education, child study, child development or human growth and  
117 development,] from an institution of higher education [(I) accredited  
118 by the Board of Regents for Higher Education or Office of Higher  
119 Education, and (II)] that is regionally accredited; [, provided such  
120 associate degree program is approved by [the Board of Regents for  
121 Higher Education or the Office of Higher Education and the Office of  
122 Early Childhood;] and

123 (C) On and after July 1, [2020] 2021, "staff qualifications" means that  
124 for each early childhood education program accepting state funds for  
125 infant, toddler and preschool spaces associated with such program's  
126 child care program or school readiness program, one hundred per cent  
127 of those individuals with the primary responsibility for a classroom of  
128 children (i) hold [(i)] certification pursuant to section 10-145b with an  
129 endorsement in early childhood education or early childhood special  
130 education, [or (ii) a bachelor's degree with a concentration in early  
131 childhood education, including, but not limited to, a bachelor's degree  
132 in early childhood education, child study, child development or  
133 human growth and development, from an institution of higher  
134 education (I) accredited by the Board of Regents for Higher Education  
135 or the Office of Higher Education, and (II) regionally accredited,  
136 provided such bachelor's degree program is approved by the Board of  
137 Regents for Higher Education or the Office of Higher Education and  
138 the Office of Early Childhood] (ii) have been issued an early childhood  
139 teacher credential, pursuant to subdivision (2) of section 2 of this act,  
140 (iii) hold at least a bachelor's degree with a concentration in early  
141 childhood education from an institution of higher education that is

142 regionally accredited, or (iv) satisfy the requirements of subdivision  
143 (3), (4) or (5) of this subsection.

144 (3) Any individual with a bachelor's degree in early childhood  
145 education or child development or a bachelor's degree and twelve  
146 credits or more in early childhood education or child development,  
147 who, on or before June 30, 2015, is employed by an early childhood  
148 education program that accepts state funds for infant, toddler and  
149 preschool spaces associated with such program's child care program or  
150 school readiness program shall be considered to meet the staff  
151 qualifications required under subparagraphs (B) and (C) of  
152 subdivision (2) of this subsection. No such early childhood education  
153 program shall terminate any such individual from employment for  
154 purposes of meeting the staff qualification requirements set forth in  
155 subparagraph (B) or (C) of subdivision (2) of this subsection.

156 (4) Any individual with [a] an associate degree or bachelor's degree  
157 in early childhood education or child development or an associate  
158 degree or a bachelor's degree and twelve credits or more in early  
159 childhood education or child development from an institution of  
160 higher education that is regionally accredited, other than [those  
161 bachelor's degrees specified in subparagraphs (B) and (C) of  
162 subdivision (2) of this subsection] an associate degree or a bachelor's  
163 degree with a concentration in early childhood education, may submit  
164 documentation concerning such degree for review and assessment by  
165 the office as to whether such degree has a sufficient concentration in  
166 early childhood education so as to satisfy the requirements set forth in  
167 [said] subparagraphs (B) and (C) of subdivision (2) of this subsection.

168 (5) Any individual with an [associate's] associate degree with twelve  
169 credits or more in early childhood education or child development, as  
170 determined by the commissioner or the president of the Connecticut  
171 State Colleges and Universities, after consultation with the  
172 commissioner, from an institution of higher education (A) accredited  
173 by the Board of Regents for Higher Education or Office of Higher  
174 Education, and (B) regionally accredited, who has been employed in

175 the same early childhood education program that accepts state funds  
176 for infant, toddler and preschool spaces associated with such  
177 program's child care program or school readiness program since 1995  
178 shall be considered to meet the staff qualifications required under  
179 subparagraphs (B) and (C) of subdivision (2) of this subsection until  
180 June 30, 2025. On and after July 1, 2025, such individual shall hold a  
181 childhood development associate credential or an equivalent  
182 credential, described in subparagraph (A) of subdivision (2) of this  
183 subsection, or otherwise meet the staff qualifications required under  
184 subparagraph (C) of subdivision (2) of this subsection. Any such  
185 individual who terminates his or her employment with such early  
186 childhood education program on or before June 30, 2025, and accepts a  
187 position at another early childhood education program accepting state  
188 funds for spaces associated with such program's child care program or  
189 school readiness program shall submit documentation of such  
190 individual's progress toward meeting the staff qualification  
191 requirements set forth in subparagraph (B) or (C) of subdivision (2) of  
192 this subsection in a manner determined by the office.

193 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2017*) The Office of Early Childhood,  
194 upon receipt of a proper application and in a manner prescribed by the  
195 Commissioner of Early Childhood, shall issue an early childhood  
196 teacher credential to any person who holds (1) an associate degree  
197 with a concentration in early childhood education from an institution  
198 of higher education that is regionally accredited, provided such  
199 associate degree program is approved by (A) the Board of Regents for  
200 Higher Education or the Office of Higher Education, and (B) the Office  
201 of Early Childhood, or (2) a bachelor's degree with a concentration in  
202 early childhood education from an institution of higher education that  
203 is regionally accredited, provided such bachelor's degree program is  
204 approved by (A) the Board of Regents for Higher Education or Office  
205 of Higher Education, and (B) the Office of Early Childhood. Any early  
206 childhood teacher credential issued pursuant to subdivision (1) of this  
207 section shall be valid until June 30, 2021. For purposes of this section,  
208 "concentration in early childhood education" has the same meaning as

209 provided in section 10-16p of the general statutes, as amended by this  
210 act."

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2017</i>	10-16p(a) and (b)
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2017</i>	New section